

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Activities at AGFA-Wolfen

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In the AGFA film factory in Wolfen, Herr Mertelsmann and Dr. Lummerzheim now have the right to censor all news about Wolfen appearing in the East Zone Press. Dr. Behrens is mentioned as leading construction man in Wolfen and Herr Arens as the leading research man.
2. Dr. Mertelsmann, technical director, is complaining bitterly about the lack of scientists and good technicians. At the moment he has in his entire factory only about 45 chemists. In the spring of 1950 the first new chemists from the universities are expected. It is clear, however, that these young chemists may be selected according to party politics rather than ability.
3. An interesting quarrel has developed between the Russian factory administration and the SED. The SED has put up big posters at the entrance of the factory showing the general trend of efficiency increases and indicating production, personnel movement and similar matters. A paper in the Russian Zone which published these figures was reprimanded by the Russians and the paper replied that the figures had been taken from posters in the factory itself.
4. All technical papers have to be produced in 17 copies, complete with technical details. According to Dr. Lummerzheim, chief of laboratories, these copies do not all go to the Russians but are apparently given away for use in Germany. Among other recipients he mentioned the Film Copy factory in Köpenick, the DEFA laboratories in Babelsberg and various offices in the DWK. The Russians, upon having their attention drawn to the danger of such procedure, merely stated that nobody would understand the technical formulas sufficiently and that, therefore, there was no danger. Such procedures cause the leading scientists and technicians to be very careful about what they publish and what they do not. Both Mertelsmann and Lummerzheim have stated that almost everybody in Wolfen had various interesting developments either in his head or in his desk drawers, which he had no intention of bringing out at the moment. On the other hand, everyone realizes that such tactics will, over the course of several years, retard the progress of the entire factory considerably and bring it far behind the world market. In this connection, it may be interesting to note that complaints have been raised about certain American offers made during the last year. It seems that American firms have offered them new developments bearing the very name under which Wolfen intended to bring them out. Wolfen people feel that they could not help this but that the Americans could have at least changed the names.

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